



Committee: Senate Finance

Bill Number: Senate Bill 921 – Health Insurance - Step Therapy or Fail-First Protocols - Drugs to Treat Associated Conditions of Advanced Metastatic Cancer

Hearing Date: February 26, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 921 – Health Insurance - Step Therapy or Fail-First Protocols - Drugs to Treat Associated Conditions of Advanced Metastatic Cancer*. The bill would prohibit state-regulated private insurers and Medicaid from requiring a step therapy or fail-first protocol for coverage of prescription drugs used to treat side effects treatment of stage four advanced metastatic cancer. Use of the prescription drug must be consistent with best practices and supported by peer-reviewed medical literature.

Treatment of stage 4 metastatic cancer is often focused on prolonging life rather than curing the disease. For patients, their quality of life depends on effective management of the side effects of their cancer treatment.ⁱ They should not face delays in effective management of those side effects because of step therapy or fail-first protocols requirements of their insurer.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

<https://www.cancercenter.com/stage-four-cancer>